

2015 Annual Spring Mystery Run – Windsor, CT Area

By Joe Howard

After a record breaking winter for cold and snow (the snow in piles had only melted the week earlier) we had a perfect spring weekend for our 2015 Annual Spring Dust Off Mystery Run on Sunday May 3rd. This years' Spring Run was planned by Brad & Sandy Busque and Bob & Henny Majeski who put together an outstanding weekend.

The starting point for the Run was the Hampton Inn parking lot in Windsor, CT. On Saturday there was an optional dinner at the nearby Tunixs Grille which is about a mile from the Hampton Inn. Twenty two met at the hotel Saturday afternoon and evening and enjoyed snacks at the hotel and a relaxing dinner. It was a great time.



Sunday morning everyone gathered in the parking lot at 9:30 AM for registration and rules review. Eleven cars and 28 people participated in the Run which started at 10:00 AM.



The clues took the participants through scenic Windsor and Windsor Locks while answering trivia questions and finding answers to an information scavenger hunt. Timothy Leary came up again as well as old movie stars. In the Windsor Historic District we had to find historic houses on the right side of the street and record the dates on the plaque (skipping one particular house) and then add up the years to get a sum. Sounds simple but it was a challenge. No one got it right.

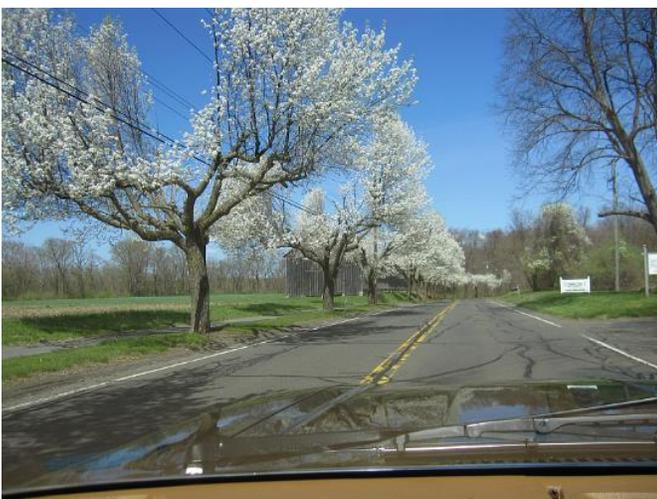
We next had to stop at the Windsor cemetery to find a family tombstone made of brownstone that resembles the top of a fireplace with the family name of a famous US Navy Admiral and get the oldest date on the tombstone.



Then we followed clues that led us to the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum. This was a fascinating place that showed the evolution of radio and communications technology in decades from the 1800s to the 1980s. While at the museum we had to decipher clues to answer questions – even some about early car radios and mascots – remember Nipper the dog. The museum also has a unique and very rare Crosley refrigerator that had a radio built into the top freezer door (see picture above).



The museum is dedicated to the preservation of old-time communications equipment and to educating the public about this wonderful history. The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut is twenty years old. Fueled by volunteers who keep it alive through their love and dedication, it continues to grow and evolve; its future history yet to be written.



After the Vintage Radio Museum we followed more clues which took us on scenic roads trying to find art work depicting extinct creatures (dinosaurs) and afterwards through the center of Windsor Locks (to see the actual locks).

Next we drove the road around Bradley Airport to the CT Air National Guard base to find an A-10 “Warthog”. After that we ended up at the New England Air Museum which featured aviation history with a Connecticut role. We toured the Air Museum to find answers to questions about military and civil aviation and women in aviation.



One part of the Museum not part of the questions was the 58th Bomb Wing Memorial that pays tribute to the thousands of men in the first unit to introduce the Boeing B-29 Superfortress into combat in World War II. Wall maps, photographs and artifacts retell the history of the 58th Bomb Wing from its beginning days in Kansas, to the bases in India, "flying the hump," to forward bases in China, and the final days of the war on the island of Tinian. The display includes the restored Boeing B-29A, "Jack's Hack" (picture below).



Everyone wished they could have spent more time at the Air Museum as there was so much to see and do. We did not even have time to look through the gift shop. I recommend it if you are in the area.

This was the last stop of the Mystery Run and at 1:15 PM we drove a short distance for lunch and storytelling at the Skyline Restaurant in Windsor, CT.



According to the planners; the distance of the run was 21.8 miles and should have taken 1 hour and 10 minutes. Also, there were 44 questions to answer along the run and at stops. Recognition was given for:

Best Mileage: Matt & Bill Thomas

Worst Mileage: Bill & Nancy Leonard

Best Time: Charlie & Barbara Tollefson

Worst Time: George & Donna Berube

Most Correct Answers: Richard Dabrowski and Maryann LaCava (74 Impala from Valley Classic Car Club)

Thanks again to Brad & Sandy Busque and Bob & Henny Majeski for planning this successful event. And thanks to all that participated.